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Random Notes in Washington: Melodrama, Nyet; Caviar, Da

Spy Exchange Is Arranged in Glittering Setting—Marrow Answers Soviet Barbs

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—

The story of how Francis Gary Powers was exchanged for Col. Rudolf I. Abel in the celebrated "spy-swap" may sound like an E. Phillips Oppenheim novel. But there was one moment when it was more like a scene from old Czarist days.

That was when James B. Donovan, the New York lawyer who secretly negotiated the exchange, had his final meeting with Soviet officials at their Embassy in East Berlin.

There were neither cloaks nor daggers. But there were smiling diplomats, frosted bottles of champagne, mountains of caviar and blazing chandeliers. Mr. Donovan was toasted like a king and the cold war seemed forgotten.

This incongruous episode will probably be part of the full story of his activities that Mr. Donovan has contracted to write for The Saturday Evening Post.



James B. Donovan